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October 24, 2005

To Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Interested Parties:

RE: CASE NO. 2005.0161E – SFPUC CALAVERAS DAM REPLACEMENT PROJECT NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an environmental impact report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and a Notice of Public Scoping Meetings for the above-referenced
issued by the San Francisco Planning Department. The NOP and
is either attached or is available upon request from Diana Sokolove,
5971; diana.sokolove@sfgov.org; or at 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite
ne combined NOP/Notice of Public Scoping Meetings will also be
)5 at http://www.sfgov.org/site/planning_index.asp and
and Plans, then Calaveras Dam Replacement).

5/S

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REFERENCE BOOK

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f Fremont, California, is the largest Bay Area reservoir in the San
n's regional water system. Calaveras Dam is located at the northern
one mile upstream from the confluence of Calaveras and Alameda
near a seismically active fault zone and was determined to be
ia Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams
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capacity (full storage capacity is 96,850 acre-feet of water) until the
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dam with one of equivalent height, restored reservoir storage to its
design, and operation of Calaveras Reservoir to release up to 6,300
nhancement of fisheries and the other natural resources of Calaveras

at the downstream edge of the existing dam, and the existing dam
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The San Francisco Planning Department, Major Environmental Analysis (MEA) Division, is preparing an
nsideration by decision-makers prior to a final decision by the SFPUC regarding whether to
nd implement the project. The purpose of the EIR is to provide information about potentially
environmental effects of the proposed project, to identify possible ways to minimize those
significant effects, and to describe and evaluate feasible alternatives to the proposed project.
n of an NOP or EIR does not indicate a decision by the City to approve or to disapprove the

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October 24, 2005

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Project Description: Calaveras Reservoir, located on the boundary of Alameda and Santa Clara Counties, approximately 10 miles southeast of Fremont, California, is the largest Bay Area reservoir in the San Francisco Public Utility Commission's regional water system. Calaveras Dam is located at the northern end of the reservoir, approximately one mile upstream from the confluence of Calaveras and Alameda Creeks. Because the dam is located near a seismically active fault zone and was determined to be seismically vulnerable, the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) has limited since 2001 the amount of water that can be stored in the reservoir to approximately 40 percent of its former full storage capacity (full storage capacity is 96,850 acre-feet of water) until the safety deficiencies are corrected. The Calaveras Dam Replacement Project, as proposed by the SFPUC, includes replacement of the existing dam with one of equivalent height, restored reservoir storage to its full design level, improved seismic design, and operation of Calaveras Reservoir to release up to 6,300 acre-feet per year of water for the enhancement of fisheries and the other natural resources of Calaveras and Alameda Creeks.

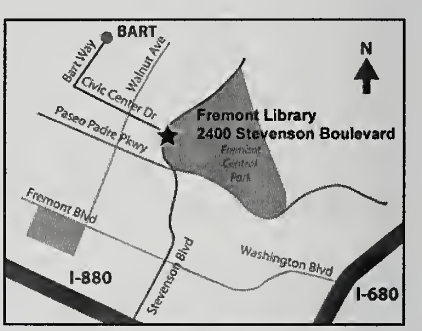
The new dam would be constructed at the downstream edge of the existing dam, and the existing dam would be used as a cofferdam (a structure to keep water away from a construction site) during construction of the replacement dam. The cofferdam would allow the reservoir to remain in operation up to the DSOD-restricted level during construction. For seismic safety purposes and improved operations and maintenance, the replacement dam would include a new intake tower, as well as a new outlet valve for water releases necessary for environmental purposes.

The San Francisco Planning Department, Major Environmental Analysis (MEA) Division, is preparing an EIR for consideration by decision-makers prior to a final decision by the SFPUC regarding whether to approve and implement the project. The purpose of the EIR is to provide information about potentially significant environmental effects of the proposed project, to identify possible ways to minimize those potentially significant effects, and to describe and evaluate feasible alternatives to the proposed project. Preparation of an NOP or EIR does not indicate a decision by the City to approve or to disapprove the proposed project. However, prior to making any such decision, the decision makers must review and consider the information contained in the EIR.

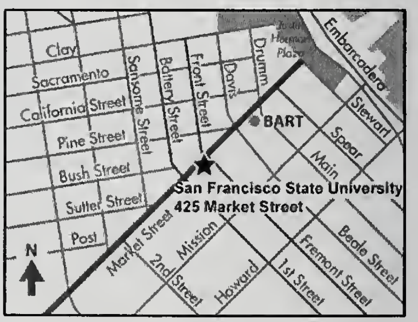
The San Francisco Planning Department will hold two **PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS** at the places, dates, and times listed below. The purpose of these meetings is to receive oral comments to assist the San Francisco Planning Department in reviewing the scope and content of the project's environmental impact analysis and information to be contained in the EIR. Written comments will also be accepted at these meetings and until the close of business on November 30, 2005. Written comments should be sent to the San Francisco Planning Department, Attn: Paul Maltzer, Environmental Review Officer, Calaveras EIR, 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 4150, San Francisco, CA 94103, or provided via email to diana.sokolovc@sfgov.org. MEA staff will transmit copies of all documents received during the public comment period to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) as the Corps may evaluate the effects of the proposed project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Scoping Meetings

Fremont
Monday, November 14, 2005, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Fremont Main Library
2400 Stevenson Boulevard
Fremont, CA
(near Fremont BART station)



San Francisco
Tuesday, November 15, 2005, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
San Francisco State University
425 Market Street, Room 301
San Francisco, CA
(near Embarcadero BART station)



If you work for an agency that is a Responsible or Trustee Agency, we need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the EIR when considering a permit or other approval for this project. We will also need the name of the contact person for your agency. If you have questions concerning environmental review of the proposed project under CEQA, please contact Diana Sokolove at **(415) 558-5971**; if you have questions about NEPA review, please contact Robert Smith at **(415) 977-8450**.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

Date of this Notice: October 24, 2005

Lead Agency: San Francisco Planning Department
30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 4150
San Francisco, CA 94103

Agency Contact Person: Diana Sokolove
Email: diana.sokolove@sfgov.org
Telephone: (415) 558-5971

Project Title: Calaveras Dam Replacement Project
Project Sponsor: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Project Contact Person: Betsy Lauppe Rhodes
Email: BLauppe@sfwater.org
Telephone: (415) 554-3240

Project Address: Calaveras Dam and Reservoir
Assessor's Block and Lot: Various
County: Alameda and Santa Clara Counties

Project Description: Calaveras Reservoir, located on the boundary of Alameda and Santa Clara Counties, approximately 10 miles southeast of Fremont, California, is the largest Bay Area reservoir in the San Francisco Public Utility Commission's regional water system. Calaveras Dam is located at the northern end of the reservoir, approximately one mile upstream from the confluence of Calaveras and Alameda Creeks. Because the dam is located near a seismically active fault zone and was determined to be seismically vulnerable, the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) has limited since 2001 the amount of water that can be stored in the reservoir to approximately 40 percent of its former full storage capacity (full storage capacity is 96,850 acre-feet of water) until the safety deficiencies are corrected. The Calaveras Dam Replacement Project, as proposed by the SFPUC, includes replacement of the existing dam with one of equivalent height, restored reservoir storage to its full design level, improved seismic design, and operation of Calaveras Reservoir to release up to 6,300 acre-feet per year of water for the enhancement of the fisheries and other natural resources of the Calaveras and Alameda Creeks.

The new dam would be constructed at the downstream edge of the existing dam, and the existing dam would be used as a cofferdam (a structure to keep water away from a construction site) during construction of the replacement dam. The cofferdam would allow the reservoir to remain in operation up to the DSOD-restricted level during construction. For seismic safety purposes and improved operations and maintenance, the replacement dam would include a new intake tower, as well as a new outlet valve for water releases necessary for environmental purposes.

Please see the attached for more information about the proposed project, the scope of the EIR, and the anticipated environmental issues.

THIS PROJECT MAY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT; AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT IS REQUIRED. This determination is based on the criteria of the Guidelines of the State Secretary for Resources, Section 15064 (Determining Significant Effect), and 15065 (Mandatory Findings of significance).

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS will be held pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code Section 21083.9 and California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15206 to receive oral comments concerning the scope of the EIR. Two meetings will be held at different locations: November 14, 2005 in Fremont and November 15, 2005 in San Francisco. Please see the attached for more information.

Written comments on the scope of the EIR will be accepted until the close of business on November 30, 2005. Written comments should be sent to the San Francisco Planning Department, Attn: Paul Maltzer, 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 4150, San Francisco, CA 94103 or sent by email to diana.sokolove@sfgov.org.

Documents relating to the proposed project are available for review, by appointment, at the San Francisco Planning Department's Major Environmental Analysis office, 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 4150. Please call Diana Sokolove at 415-558-5971 to schedule an appointment.

October 24, 2005
Date

D. Sokolove for Paul Maltzer
Paul E. Maltzer, Environmental Review Officer

中文資料請電： (415) 558-6282
Para sa impormasyon sa Tagolog turnawag sa: (415) 558-6251
Para informacion en Espanol llamar al: (415) 558-6307

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SFPUC CALAVERAS DAM REPLACEMENT PROJECT
CASE NO. 2005.0161E

1.0 OVERVIEW

1.1 San Francisco Water System and Calaveras Dam

The City and County of San Francisco, through the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), owns and operates a regional water system that extends from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the San Francisco Bay Area, as shown in Figure 1. The regional water system serves 2.4 million people in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda and Tuolumne Counties. The basic network of major facilities in the regional system was built from the late 1880s through the 1930s. Expansion and improvements of the major facilities continued through the 1970s. The Calaveras Dam and Reservoir, located in the East Bay Hills in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties, is part of the San Francisco water system.

Calaveras Reservoir receives runoff from the Calaveras Creek and Arroyo Hondo watersheds (a drainage area of approximately 100 square miles). During the wet season, water from Alameda Creek is diverted into Calaveras Reservoir through the Alameda Creek Diversion Dam and tunnel (see Figure 2). Water from Calaveras Reservoir flows through the Calaveras Pipeline to the Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant (SVWTP) where it is treated for distribution.

Although the population within the SFPUC service area has steadily grown, ongoing repairs, maintenance, and upgrades have not kept pace with the overall system needs to meet increasing water demand from customers. Aging facilities within the system, some of which made use of now-outdated construction methods and materials, are currently in need of major repair, rehabilitation, upgrade, and/or replacement. In 2001, the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) imposed operating restrictions on Calaveras Dam due to seismic concerns. Until the dam safety deficiencies are corrected, the local storage capacity is reduced and normal system operation is impaired.

The SFPUC developed a regional Water System Improvement Program (WSIP) in February 2005 (see www.sfwater.org). The basic goals of the WSIP are to increase the reliability of the system with respect to water quality, seismic response, water delivery, and water supply to meet water purchase requests in the service area through the year 2030.

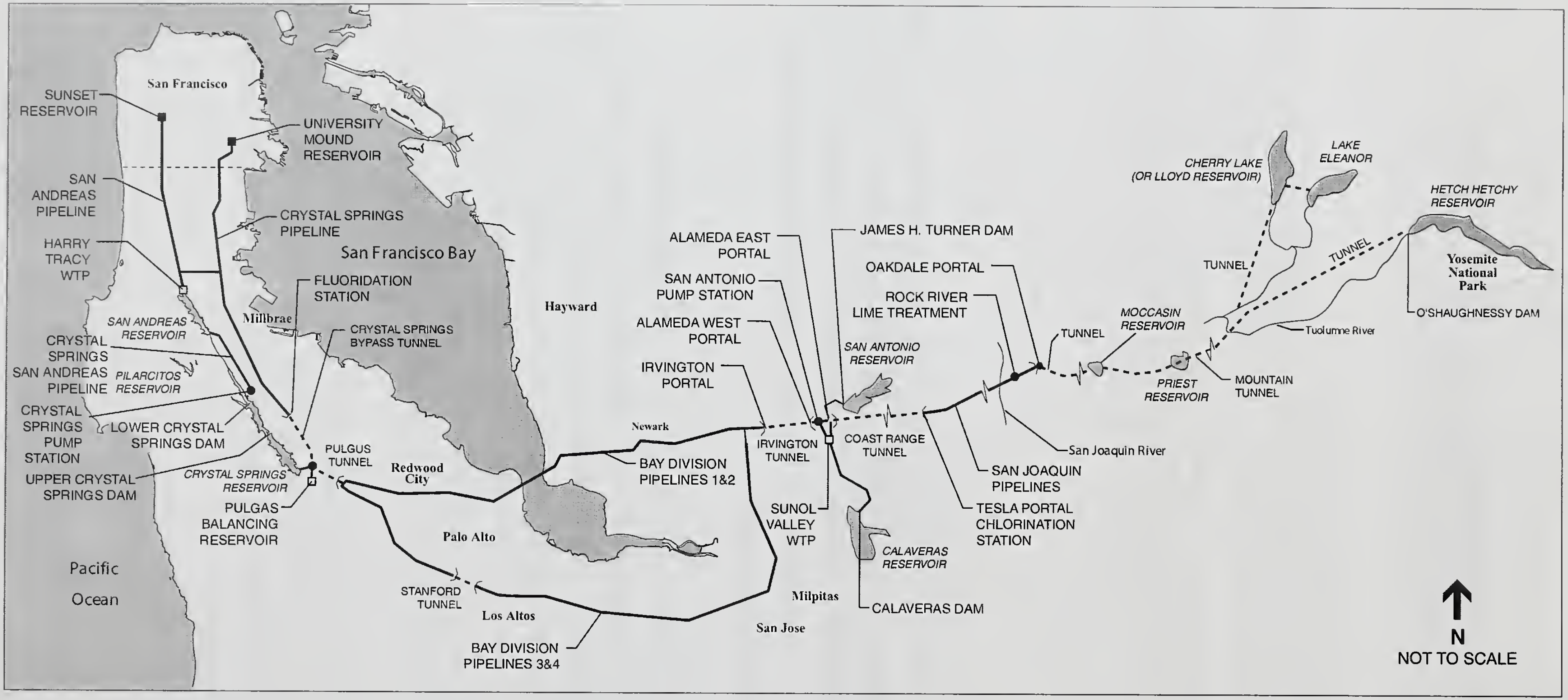
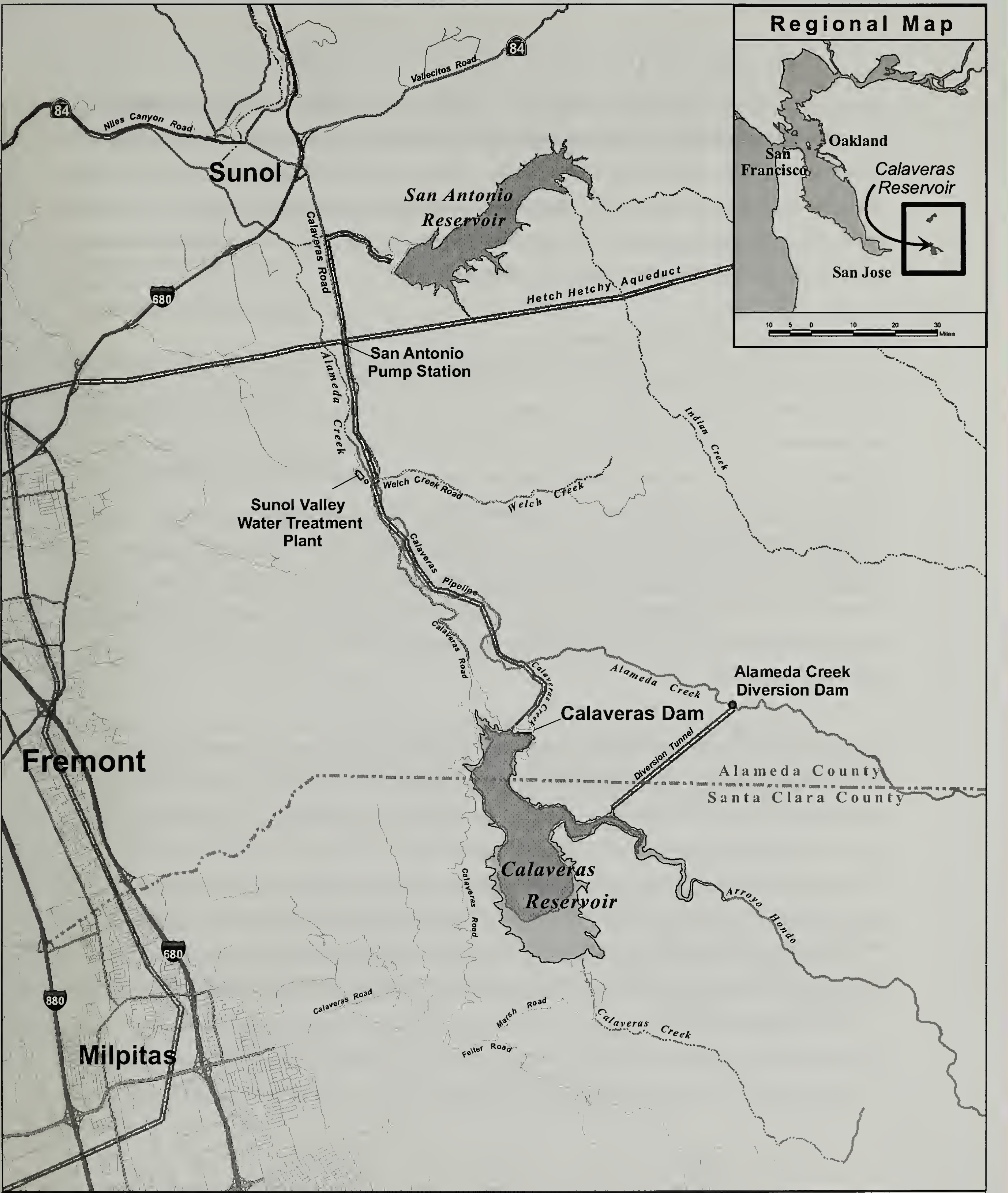


Figure 1
SFPUC Regional Water System

Calaveras Dam Replacement Project Draft EIR

SOURCE: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (2005)



Sources: Base Mapping -- SFPUC--LRMS GIS / EDAW, Inc. 2005

1 0.5 0 1 2 3 Miles

1 : 95,040
1" = 1.5 miles

10/24/05

Figure 2

Project Location Map

These goals and objectives provide the basis for a series of facility improvement projects that the SFPUC would implement throughout the regional water system and for the implementation of water supply options to meet future annual water delivery needs during normal (non-drought) years, as well as current and future needs during droughts. Implementation of the Calaveras Dam Replacement Project would help meet the seismic reliability goal of the WSIP and, upon restoration of former water storage capabilities, help meet the delivery and drought reliability goals of the WSIP.

1.2 Environmental Review Process

The San Francisco Planning Department, Major Environmental Analysis (MEA) Division will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed Calaveras Dam Replacement Project. The EIR will be a Project EIR as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15161, and will address the project-specific impacts of the proposed project related to construction and operation. Early discussions between MEA and San Francisco District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) staff indicate that MEA and the Corps may prepare a joint EIR and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Document. In such a case, the NEPA Document could be an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS). Corps staff will make that decision pending verification of wetland delineations. The balance of this Notice of Preparation (NOP) assumes preparation of a joint EIR/NEPA Document.

The first step in the environmental review process is the formal public scoping process, for which this NOP has been prepared. Following public scoping meetings, a Draft EIR/NEPA Document will be prepared jointly by the Lead Agencies (MEA and the Corps) and circulated for a 45-day public review period. Public comments on the Draft EIR/NEPA Document will be accepted in writing or orally at a formal public hearing to be held by the San Francisco Planning Commission. The Lead Agencies will prepare written responses to comments on environmental issues raised during the public comment period, and a Responses to Comments Document will be prepared. This document will be considered by the Planning Commission, along with the Draft EIR and any revisions to the Draft included in the Responses, for certification as a Final EIR.

1.3 Public Scoping Meetings

The San Francisco Planning Department will hold two public scoping meetings at the following locations, dates, and times:

FREMONT – Monday, November 14, 2005, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Fremont Main Library
2400 Stevenson Boulevard
Fremont, CA
(near Fremont BART station)

SAN FRANCISCO – Tuesday, November 15, 2005, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

San Francisco State University
425 Market Street, Room 301
San Francisco, CA
(near Embarcadero BART station)

The purpose of these meetings is to assist the Planning Department in reviewing the proposed scope and content of the EIR summarized in this NOP. The public will have the opportunity to comment and offer testimony for consideration. The San Francisco Planning Department will also accept written comments at the meetings or by mail or email until the close of business on November 30, 2005.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Calaveras Dam Replacement Project has two components: replacement of the existing dam at Calaveras Reservoir to meet seismic safety and delivery/drought reliability requirements, and operation of Calaveras Reservoir to release up to 6,300 acre-feet per year of water to Calaveras and Alameda Creeks for enhancement of fisheries and the other natural resources of the creeks.

Calaveras Reservoir is located on the boundary of Alameda and Santa Clara Counties, approximately 10 miles southeast of Fremont, California (see Figure 2). Calaveras Dam is located at the northern end of the reservoir, approximately one mile upstream from the confluence of Calaveras and Alameda Creeks. Calaveras Reservoir is the largest San Francisco Bay Area (local) reservoir in the SFPUC's regional water system (at its historical storage capacity, Calaveras Reservoir retains approximately 40 percent of the SFPUC's total local water storage). On average, local water storage comprises approximately 15 percent of the SFPUC's total regional system storage, with the balance of storage located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Calaveras Dam and Reservoir, as designed and operated prior to the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) restriction in 2001, allowed for retention of approximately 96,850 acre-feet of local runoff from Alameda, Calaveras, and Arroyo Hondo Creek watersheds. Because the dam is located near a seismically active fault zone and was determined to be vulnerable to strong earthquake ground motion, DSOD currently limits the reservoir water level to a maximum elevation that corresponds to about 38,100 acre-feet of storage, which is approximately 60 percent less than the previous normal maximum water storage capacity.

The proposed project includes a replacement dam that would be built immediately downstream of the existing dam to restore the reservoir's historical capacity of 96,850 acre-feet. The dam would be an earthen dam built to withstand the Maximum Credible Earthquake originating on the Calaveras Fault Zone and to withstand the Probable Maximum Flood. The design of the new dam (with a wide clay core and wide internal filter and drainage system) could accommodate enlargement of the dam in the future. SFPUC does not reasonably foresee the need for a larger dam beyond one that restores the reservoir's historical capacity; the dam would be designed to allow potential future reuse of dam components without requiring otherwise more extensive dam removal and rebuilding if an enlargement were ever undertaken in the future. Any enlargement in the future would require a new CEQA process and approvals of the new project, including but not limited to modification or replacement of the existing operating permit by DSOD and possible additional water rights from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

For seismic safety purposes and improved operations and maintenance, the proposed replacement dam would include a new intake tower, as well as a new outlet valve for water releases necessary for environmental purposes. Dam design must be approved by DSOD, and DSOD staff will monitor construction.

The main elements of the proposed project are:

- The earthen dam with robust design (wide centrally located clay core, wide filter and internal drainage),
- An un-gated, curved, open chute spillway with a new stilling basin,
- A new intake tower connecting to an existing drain and three water inlet adits,
- Extension of the outlet pipe connecting to a relocated, fixed cone valve,
- A low volume cone valve for water releases for environmental purposes, and

- Installation of instrumentation such as piezometers and settlement monuments, including accelerometers to measure strong ground motions during earthquakes.

The replacement dam would be an earthen dam, with an impervious clay core, internal transition filter zone and drain, and pervious outer shells. The dam would be 220 feet tall (measured from the bottom of the foundation). The freeboard (vertical distance from the spillway crest to the dam crest, used to prevent overtopping of the dam) would be 21.6 feet. At the top of the dam, the elevation would be 778 feet.[1] The dam would be 1,130 feet long at the crest, 1,100 feet thick at the base, and 76 feet thick at the crest. Total volume of the earthen dam would be approximately 2.3 million cubic yards.

The new dam would be constructed at the downstream edge of the existing dam (see Figures 3 and 4). The existing dam would be used as a cofferdam[2] during construction of the replacement dam. The cofferdam would allow the reservoir to remain in operation up to the present restricted level and would also provide 100-year flood protection during construction. At the completion of the replacement dam, the cofferdam would be leveled off to an elevation of approximately 705 feet, and would be approximately 50 feet below the water level of the refilled reservoir. The excavated material from the cofferdam would be placed between the downstream slope of the cofferdam and the upstream slope of the replacement dam.

The new spillway would be located at the western end (left abutment) of the dam and would curve to the east to minimize rock excavation of the existing hillside. The spillway would be a rectangular, concrete-lined channel, 120 feet wide at the crest and 1,350 feet in length (including the stilling basin).

A new intake tower would be constructed on the existing outlet conduit approximately 60 feet downstream of the existing tower. The structure would consist of a circular reinforced concrete tower about 20 feet in diameter, connected to the shore by a bridge. The outlet piping, valves, and fish screens would all be new.

In addition to the spillway, there would be three means of releasing water from the dam: (1) an outlet conduit (existing Calaveras Pipeline) that would convey releases to the SVWTP, (2) a conduit that would discharge water to the spillway stilling basin below the dam and eventually to Calaveras Creek through a

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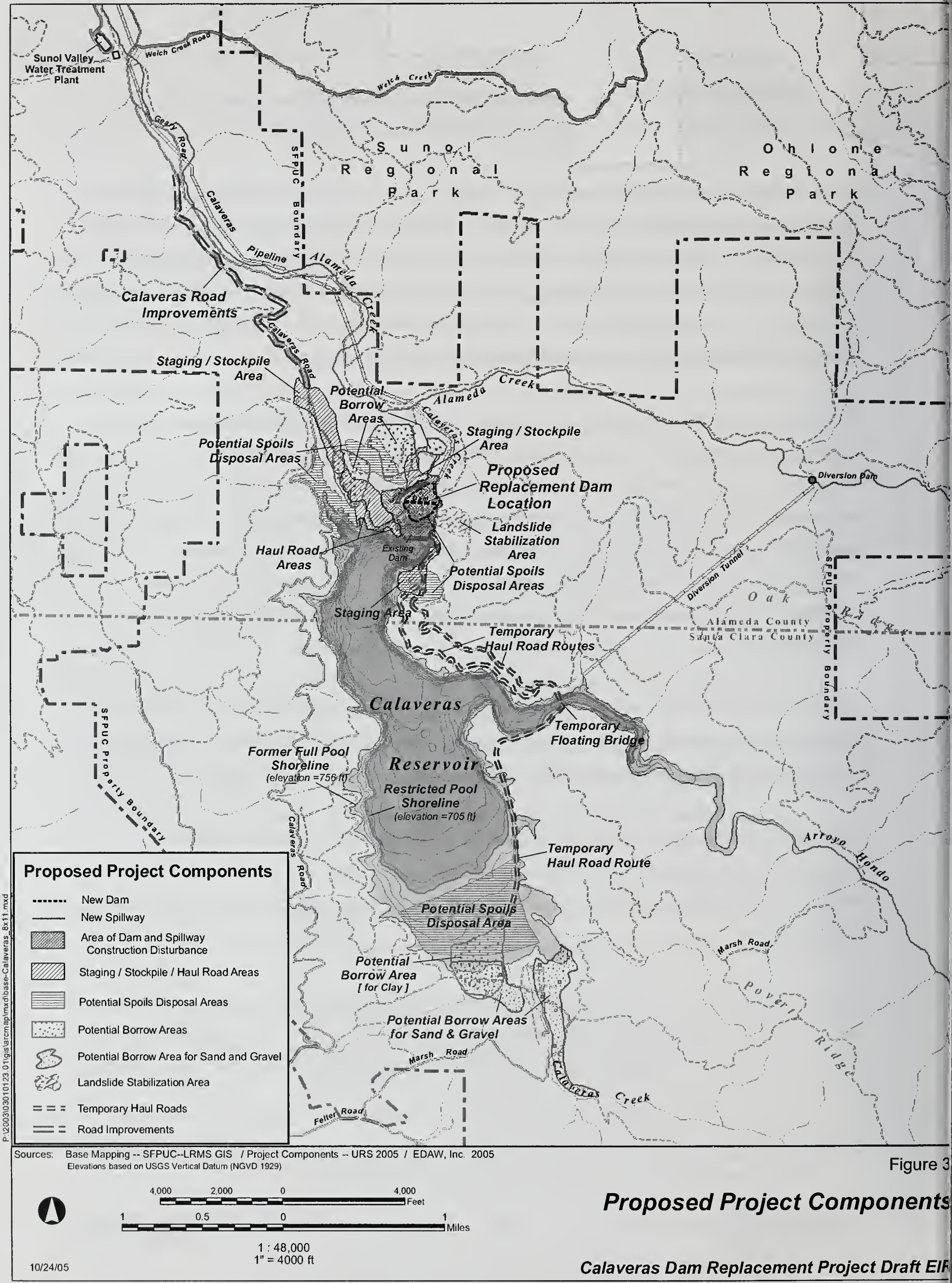
[1] NGVD 1929 Datum. A datum is a line, point, or surface (such as sea level) used as a reference for elevation.

[2] A cofferdam is a temporary structure to keep water away from a construction site.


Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant
Welch Creek Road
Welch Creek
Geary Road
Calaveras Pipeline
SFPUC Boundary
Sunol Regional Park
Ohlone Regional Park
Alameda Creek
Calaveras Road Improvements
Calaveras Road
Staging / Stockpile Area
Potential Borrow Areas
Calaveras Creek
Staging / Stockpile Area
Potential Spoils Disposal Areas
Proposed Replacement Dam Location
Landslide Stabilization Area
Haul Road Areas
Existing Dam
Potential Spoils Disposal Areas
Staging Area
Diversion Dam
Diversion Tunnel
Oak Ridge
Alameda County
Santa Clara County
SFPUC Property Boundary
Temporary Haul Road Routes
Calaveras Reservoir
Temporary Floating Bridge
Former Full Pool Shoreline (elevation =756 ft)
Restricted Pool Shoreline (elevation =705 ft)
SFPUC Property Boundary
Calaveras Road
Temporary Haul Road Route
Arroyo Hondo
Potential Spoils Disposal Area
Potential Borrow Area [for Clay]
Marsh Road
Poverty Ridge
Potential Borrow Areas for Sand & Gravel
Marsh Road
Felter Road
Calaveras Creek
Proposed Project Components
New Dam
New Spillway
Area of Dam and Spillway Construction Disturbance
Staging / Stockpile / Haul Road Areas
Potential Spoils Disposal Areas
Potential Borrow Areas
Potential Borrow Area for Sand and Gravel
Landslide Stabilization Area
Temporary Haul Roads
Road Improvements
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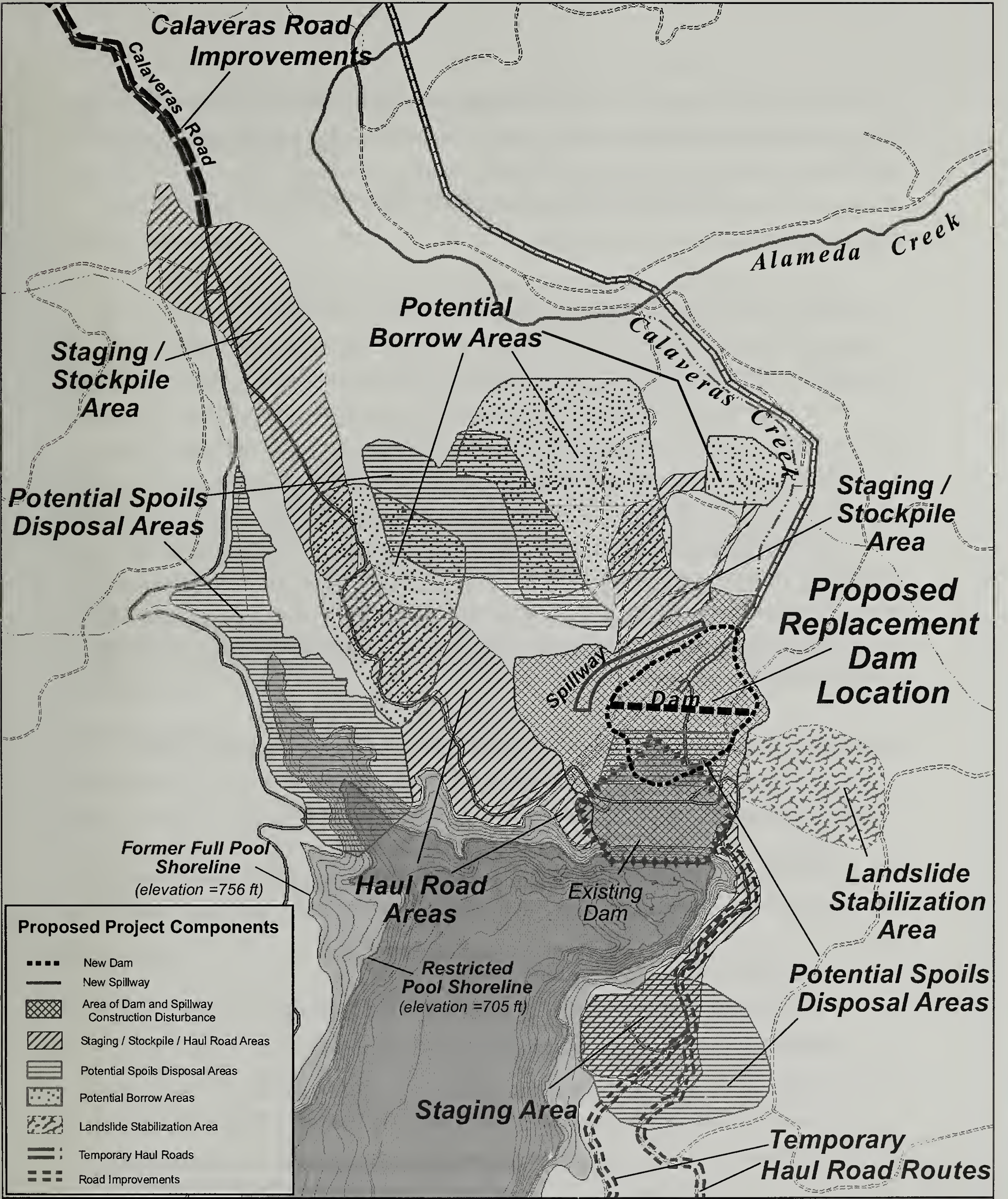
4,000 2,000 0 4,000 Feet
1 0.5 0 1 Miles
1 : 48,000
1" = 4000 ft
10/24/05

Sources: Base Mapping -- SFPUC--LRMS GIS / Project Components -- URS 2005 / EDAW, Inc. 2005
Elevations based on USGS Vertical Datum (NGVD 1929)

Figure 3

Proposed Project Components


Calaveras Road Improvements
Calaveras Road
Alameda Creek
Calaveras Creek
Potential Borrow Areas
Staging / Stockpile Area
Potential Spoils Disposal Areas
Staging / Stockpile Area
Proposed Replacement Dam Location
Spillway
Dam
Former Full Pool Shoreline (elevation =756 ft)
Haul Road Areas
Existing Dam
Landslide Stabilization Area
Restricted Pool Shoreline (elevation =705 ft)
Potential Spoils Disposal Areas
Staging Area
Temporary Haul Road Routes
Proposed Project Components
New Dam
New Spillway
Area of Dam and Spillway Construction Disturbance
Staging / Stockpile / Haul Road Areas
Potential Spoils Disposal Areas
Potential Borrow Areas
Landslide Stabilization Area
Temporary Haul Roads
Road Improvements
P:\2003\03010123.01\gis\arcmap\mxd\base-dam_8x11.mxd

Sources: Base Mapping -- SFPUC--LRMS GIS / Aerial Image (if shown) – HJW 2001 / Project Components -- URS 2005 / EDAW, Inc. 2005
Elevations based on USGS Vertical Datum (NGVD 1929)

1,000 500 0 1,000 Feet

1 : 12,000
1" = 1000 ft

10/24/05

Figure 4

Dam Construction Area

Calaveras Dam Replacement Project Draft EIR

72-inch diameter cone valve, and (3) a new 12-inch diameter pipe that would be connected to the 72-inch diameter outlet pipe through Calaveras Dam. Under a 1997 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the SFPUC is required to release up to 6,300 acre-feet per year of water from Calaveras Reservoir to Calaveras Creek. SFPUC would use this 12-inch diameter pipe to release water for this purpose.

Much of the material needed to construct the earthfill dam would be obtained from the required excavation of the new spillway and borrow areas in the vicinity of the reservoir (see Figure 3). Three potential borrow areas are located in the hills on the west side of Calaveras Creek, adjacent to and below the existing dam. Another potential borrow area is located at the south end of the reservoir. Sand and gravel for filters and drains would be imported from commercial sources or they could potentially be obtained from deposits in the vicinity of the southern borrow area. Three staging areas would be used for stockpiling of materials in the vicinity of the dam site. These staging areas would also be used for office trailers, site soils testing laboratory, and equipment and maintenance yards. A haul road would be constructed from the southern borrow area to the dam site as shown in Figure 3. The haul road would be located on the east shore of the reservoir. A portion of the haul road would incorporate existing roads that could be graded for this use. A temporary floating bridge would be placed across Arroyo Hondo Creek to move equipment across the creek.

Construction is planned to begin in the first quarter of 2009 and end in the fourth quarter of 2011.

Project Approvals

Following completion of environmental review, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission would hold a public hearing to consider approval of the proposed project. Approvals would also be required from:

- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams
- California Department of Fish and Game

Review of the proposed project would also be conducted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, State Office of Historic Preservation, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and National Marine Fisheries Service.

3.0 POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

3.1 Key Environmental Issues

The following key environmental issues will be analyzed in the EIR/NEPA Document.

Biological Resources

Construction of the project could impact sensitive biological resources. Sensitive habitat types and special status species that would be most likely to be affected by potential habitat losses and disturbance are: sycamore alluvial woodland, Calliope silverspot butterfly habitat, bay checkerspot butterfly habitat, rainbow trout, Sacramento perch, Pacific lamprey, California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, California tiger salamander, Alameda whipsnake, most beautiful jewel flower, Cooper's hawk, Townsend's western big-eared bat, golden eagle, great blue heron, sharp-shinned hawk, and western pond turtle. The California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and the Alameda whipsnake are listed as "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has proposed the rainbow trout population in the Calaveras Reservoir watershed for listing as "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act. In addition, there are 26 federally or state-listed "species of concern" that have the potential to occur in the project area. Potential impacts to sensitive biological resources also include disturbance or temporary removal of aquatic habitats, such as wetlands and riparian areas.

Cultural Resources

Sensitive cultural resources that could be affected by the project include historical and prehistoric features that are protected by federal and state laws. A number of known cultural resource sites are recorded in the project area. Observations of prehistoric resources were documented during construction of the existing dam. Impacts would also involve the built environment, as features associated with the 1920s-era Calaveras Dam and appurtenant facilities would be demolished or substantially altered.

Water Quality

Potential water quality impacts caused by construction of the project could include:

- Increased sedimentation in Calaveras Creek upstream of the reservoir by use of a potential borrow area in close proximity to the creek,
- Increased sedimentation in Calaveras Reservoir through construction activities, and
- Increased sedimentation in Calaveras and Alameda Creeks downstream of the new dam from various construction activities.

Traffic and Transportation

Traffic disruption along Calaveras Road would occur during construction. Much of Calaveras Road is one lane and experiences a low volume of traffic. Recreational bicycle traffic also uses the roadway. The section of Calaveras Road between Felter Road and Geary Road would likely be used as a major hauling route for imported materials used in dam construction. For safety reasons, this section would need to be closed to the public for the duration of construction. The road would remain open to emergency vehicles. The section of Calaveras Road north of Geary Road would remain open during construction and there would be public safety concern during periods of heavy hauling, which may include large volumes of haul trucks depending on the extent of off-site materials required for construction.

Other Environmental Issues

Other topics that will be addressed in detail in the EIR/NEPA document include visual impacts associated with the new dam, geology and seismicity risks associated with dam construction and operation, noise and air quality emissions during construction, hazards associated with accidental spills of hazardous substances into the reservoir and/or local creeks and potential contaminants encountered during construction, cumulative impacts that could occur from this project in combination with other projects planned in the area, and growth-inducing impacts associated with restoring the reservoir's historical water storage capacity. Where impacts would be significant, the EIR/NEPA document will identify and discuss feasible mitigation measures.

3.2 Alternatives

CEQA and NEPA require that an EIR or a NEPA Document evaluate a reasonable range of feasible alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, that would attain most of the basic project objectives, but that could avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project. In addition to the No Project alternative required by both NEPA and CEQA, the EIR/NEPA Document will evaluate an alternative type of dam in the proposed new location (i.e., one that would not be designed with a wide core that could accommodate enlargement of the dam in the future, if ever needed). It is anticipated that the scoping process may identify other alternative approaches to avoid potentially significant impacts of the proposed project.